

The March on Washington, 1963 ESSAY

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The March on Washington, 1963, ESSAY 2.

August 28, 1963, there were approximately 2,000 to 3,000 people that participated in one of the largest mass demonstrations gathered in Washington D.C., in front of the Lincoln Memorial. It was a balmy August day in the Nation's Capital and those that were there experienced a historic moment like no other.

Why are these, that came from many of the cities were there? What was their purpose? What were they going to achieve? What did they do after this gathering is over and done with?

These 2,000 to 3,000 came from buses, trains and cars to witness and demand the United States government, freedom and jobs with it purpose to advocate for civil rights and economic rights of African Americans.

Many who were there was the everyday working man, working woman, mothers who probably married or single mothers, young people black and white, college students, various members of organizations like the NAACP, SNCC and other groups along with various celebrities who were showing their support from the motion pictures industry like, Harry Belafonte, Burt Lancaster, Lena Horne, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Sidney Poitier, Charleston Heston, Rita Moreno, Tony Curtis, Diahann Carroll, Sammy Davis, Jr, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Marlon Brando and Madame Joesphine Baker. There were various musicians like Marian Anderson, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and gospel legend Mahalia Jackson who also lend their support.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, the young Baptist preacher and a catalyst of the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, from Atlanta, GA was one of the main speakers who was the last to speak as he delivered his now famous, “I Have a Dream” speech when read through the beginning of it but went off script to bring an emphasis on his dream.

A. Philip Randolph, who was the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Negro American Labor Council (NALC), who was also there, first planned this protest march in the 1940’s and 1950’s in the response of racial violence, including the numerous lynching and murders that groups like the K.K.K, was the reason why the civil rights movement was started to speed up during that decade after the Reconstruction Era to marches and protests to advocate those rights.

Another contributor who became a contribution to the march was civil rights leader Bayard Ruston, was also to hopefully to use the march in protest the racial discrimination hiring practices by the military, during World War II and calling on President Franklin D. Roosevelt for change but it was to start July 1, 1941, but June 25, Roosevelt already passed an Executive Order 8802 to put an end of discrimination living. FDR later set up the Fair Employment Practice Committee (EEPC) so that investigators will be done properly and to address cases of discrimination and neglect of African Americans and other minorities.

There were some pushbacks on having the march from those that this would, “*with the intent or to commit any act or engaged in any conduct which would tend to incite to riot*”, but unfortunately, they were wrong on that theory.

The **1963 March on Washington** was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. Here's what it achieved:

1. **Visibility and Unity:** The march brought together around 250,000 people (about half the population of Wyoming) from diverse backgrounds to advocate for civil rights. It showcased the collective strength and determination of the movement.
2. **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Speech:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, emphasizing equality, justice, and unity. His words resonated deeply and inspired generations.
3. **Pressure on Congress:** While the march didn't immediately change legislation, it increased pressure on Congress to pass civil rights laws. Within a year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
4. **Symbolic Impact:** The march remains a symbol of hope, resilience, and the fight for equality. It demonstrated the power of peaceful protest and paved the way for further progress in the struggle for civil rights.

In summary, the 1963 March on Washington amplified the continued call for justice, equality, and an end to all seen and unseen racial discrimination which is proof how dark the nation has gotten because of race and race relations.

5.

What are the similarities and differences in the content of your sources? *According to an article from Revue française d'études américaines, a professor from the University of Southern California, Mary L. Dudziak wrote of the event of the March was also happening in Paris. Yes, this demonstration impacted people around the world so that people of other nations began to recognize what was the significant of what this march was all about to organize and mobilize seeking freedom from American-style racism would meet Africans who were fleeing the heat of the oppression or seeking education.*

Fast forward to 2024, The Black Lives Movement is taking up the mantle of what the earlier Civil Rights left off as the struggles continues fighting for the rights of the Black and Brown people the needed conversation on race and race relation or racial discrimination across the board lighting the fire under local, state and federal officials to make sure race has no place anywhere.

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<http://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical/legacy-march-on-wahington>

<http://www.worldhistory.edu.com/march-on-washington-1963-orgen-story-speech-signicance-facts/>